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CONFIDENTIAL

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[redacted]

Tuskaniye Gold Mine

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1. The Kolyma Labor Camp in Tuskaniye began functioning in 1938. [redacted] Comment: This probably refers to Duskynya (61°40'N, 148°50'E). A less likely possibility is Ust Tuskan (62°42'N, 150°52'E)._7 When [redacted] 25X1X
25X1X [redacted] there were about 1,200 men in Camp No. 1, one of two camps in Tuskaniye. The other camp was called Camp No. 2. Most of the laborers in Camp No. 1 were foreigners (Persians, Greeks, Latvians, Finns, and Poles who had fled from Poland before the war because they were Communists but who were sent to the labor camps during the 1938 and 1939 purges.) From 1941 to 1946 the number of exiles in the Tuskaniye camps did not increase, because the production of the gold mine was so low.

2. The deposit of gold at Tuskaniye is located about one or 1½ km from the bank of the Kolyma in a little canyon parallel to the river. The vein of gold is found at a depth not exceeding three meters. The mining is done with shovels and mattocks in the summer and with crow-bars in the winter. Between 1941 and 1946, no machinery was used in the mining operations here. In 1946, however, machinery began to arrive in the camp. Most of the machines were of American manufacture, but a few were of Russian or German make.

3. In the No 1 Camp at Tuskaniye, the gold taken from the ground was washed on the spot. Four gold washing machines, called "pramivalni" in Russian, were used. The clean gold emerging from the washing was placed in small bags. The quantity of each sack was the amount of gold produced by one shift working in one of the camps. Two sacks were produced each 24 hours from the No. 1 Camp of Tuskaniye, the weight of each sack varying between one and two kilograms. Camp No. 2 was more productive, but [redacted] 25X1X
25X1X [redacted]. The sacks of gold ore from both camps were loaded on a car and sent, with a guard of three armed men, to Ust Omchuk (61°09'N, 149°38'E), where the central offices were located.

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4. In addition to the forced laborers in these camps there were ordinary free workmen. These had formerly been exiles, but after the expiration of their sentence they stayed to work in the camps. They stayed for two reasons: first, because they preferred staying there to going elsewhere in Russia, since life was so difficult in Russia; second, because the administration of the camps put various impediments in the way of leaving. Those exiles who decided voluntarily to remain at a camp signed agreements, usually of three years' duration, with the Soviet Government. They had two months' leave each year. They were paid a wage twice as high as that prevailing in the USSR. The free laborers worked only eight hours a day and received better food than the exiles. They were usually paid once a month.

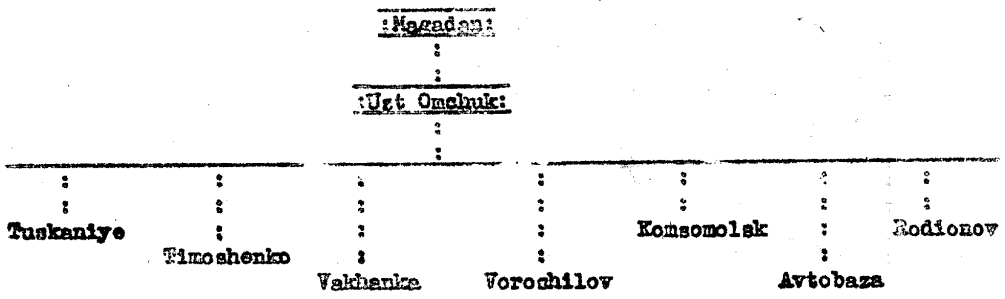
5. In Tuskaniye the following offices, which were subordinate to Ust Omchuk, were located:

a. The office of the Director, Guliskov
b. The office of a Soviet Army Captain
c. The MVD office. There were three men, two of whom were Jews, in this office.
d. The headquarters of the guard, which was under the command of a lieutenant. In Camp No. 1 the guard consisted of 50 soldiers who served there after signing an agreement with the Soviet Government.

Ust Omchuk

25X1X 6. [redacted]

one day on his return. Ust Omchuk is 65 kilometers south of Avtobaza. It is the site of the administration of the various camps in the district. It has drugstores, woodworking shops, garages, municipal building, warehouses for food, and MVD offices. The administration offices of Ust Omchuk are subordinate to Magadan. The following diagram suggests the administration of the camps at Ust Omchuk:



Other Camps and Gold and Platinum Mines

7. a. The Timoshenko Lager: located 25 kilometers west of Avtobaza; opened in 1938.

b. The Komsomolsk Lager: 12 kilometers south of Avtobaza; opened in 1946. It is a rich gold mine.

c. The Rodionov Lager: located three or four kilometers from the Komsomolsk Lager. This camp, which was opened in 1946, is also a rich gold mine.

d. Livekvi Gold Mine: opened in 1939; the mine is located about 60 km west of Srednikan; 8,000 exiles, Russians, Tatars, Uzbeks, and three Greeks, worked at this mine when it first opened in 1939. Laborers were assigned
25X1X to two camps, numbered 1 and 2. Deaths in these camps during the time [redacted] to about 80 percent of the total number of laborers. Chief of the camp was a Russian senior officer named Zyarov, who later transferred to the Pokriskina camp. The pits were opened to a depth of nine meters with crow-bars and then dynamited. The deposit of gold-bearing ore was found at a depth of about eight meters. The vein was 2 to 2.5 meters thick. Daily production per person was set at 100 grams. A few houses at this mine were occupied by geologists and engineers headed by Botkaradya.

e. Chauria (Sauria?) Gold Mine: This mine, opened in January 1940, is located about 200 km northwest of Orotukan. [redacted] 25X1X
25X1X [redacted] There were about 50 camps in the area, holding about 30,000 exiles. In this region the deposits of gold were located about eight meters below the surface and were about three meters thick. Method of mining was the same as that employed at Liyekovi. Director of the mine was Lazaros Zelnikov from Belgorod in the Kharkov region.

f. Papeta Gold Mine: This mine, opened in February 1943, could not be located by informant. There were three camps at the mine, holding a total of 15,000 laborers. This mine was richer in yield than the Chauria (Sauria?) mine. The vein of gold, about one or two meters thick, was located eight meters below the surface.

g. Pamfilovski Gold Mine: This mine is located eight miles east of the Papeta mine. It had only one camp, which held 3,000 laborers. The ore here was located about 12 meters below the surface. The ore dug from this mine was taken to the Tachania mine. The Pamfilovski and the Papeta mines had the same director, but [redacted] 25X1X
name.

h. Tachania Gold Mine: This mine is 40 km west of the Papeta mine. The total number of laborers there was about 4,000. The vein of gold was ten meters below the surface of the ground and was one meter thick. The earth above the gold was black and looked as if it had recently
25X1X been burned. [redacted] daily production of gold at this mine varied from 5 to 1,000 grams per day. This vein was the richest of all the veins in the area. The ore was transported from here to the Pokriskina mine.

i. Pokriskina Gold Mine: This mine is 160 km east (?) of Ustnera. It had a total of four camps, each holding 8,000 laborers. The digging at this mine was done in galleries 22 to 32 meters below the surface of the ground. The total length of the main gallery and the sub-galleries stemming from it was 15,000 meters (sic). The vein of gold was very rich. The greatest quantity which [redacted] in one day was 25X1X
25X1X 1.5 kilograms. The gold was mined with electric-powered pneumatic drills. [redacted] cannot estimate overall production. [redacted] 25X1X
that there were 150 special installations where gold was cleaned. Each installation was capable of cleaning 35 kilograms of gold a day. Source does not know to what place or by what means the refined gold was transported from the mine. The director of this mine was Zyarov, who transferred from Liyekovi.

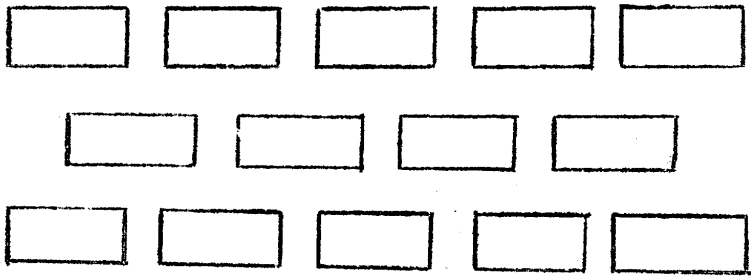
j. Lazo Mine: At the Lazo mine in the Kolyma region, small amounts of gold and tin and large amounts of platinum are mined. The largest piece of platinum ore found at this mine weighed 1,100 grams. [redacted] 25X1X
[redacted] the total production of the mine. The unrefined
25X1X platinum ore is shipped by air to Moscow. Each laborer had to dig 13 handcarts of earth every day in order to receive his food ration.

Mining Methods

8. In the mines described above in paragraph 7d - 7i, the mining was carried out in the following stages:

a. Opening the pits: When the geologists and mining engineers had determined the area or a section of the area where the vein was located, the laborers were conducted by armed soldiers to the spot and began the work of opening the pits. The length of each pit was 1.80 meters; the width 1.20 meters. The depth varied according to the distance of the vein below the surface. The pits were arranged in checkerboard pattern (sic), and the distance between them was usually 2.5 to 3 meters:

Diagram of Pit Arrangement



One hundred fifty to two hundred pits were usually opened in each place designated by the geologists. The laborers used no machines, but, as at Tuskaniye, did the work by hand with crowbars.

b. Dynamiting the pits: After the pits were opened, three or four boxes of dynamite, each weighing 40 kilograms, were placed along one side of the pit (along the same side in all the pits) according to the orders of the mining engineers. The boxes of dynamite were connected to one another by electric wires, and detonated simultaneously by electricity. A mound of dirt was raised at one side by the explosion, and at the same time one large pit five to ten meters deep was created.

c. Removal of earth: After the pits were dynamited and the dirt blown to one side, work was immediately begun on clearing away the earth from the large pit. This work was done with machines and by hand tools.

d. Work on the gold-bearing vein: After the earth was cleared away and the gold-bearing vein reached, laborers opened holes with crowbars. These holes were 10 to 20 cm in diameter and as deep as the vein of gold. The holes were opened all at once or gradually, according to the strength (sic) of the vein. Dynamite was again placed in the holes that had been opened (usually 800 grams in each hole). The quantity was just enough to loosen the ore without blowing the dirt around. After the dynamite was placed in the holes, it was covered with dirt before detonation with a slow-burning fuse; each hole was blown separately.

e. Removal and washing of the ore: After the explosion the large nuggets of gold were collected. Armed guards always stood on the rim of the big pit and watched the work. The nuggets were immediately delivered to the boss of the section. The ore was then carried in baskets or on Decauville cars to the washing installation.

Machinery Used

9. a. The power-shovels used in the mines were of two types: American Diesel, and Russian steam shovels, burning wood and coal, whose shovels have a capacity of 1.5 cubic meters. In camp No.1 of the Chauria mine, there were 20 power shovels among the other machines.

b. Diesel engines were used to thaw the frozen earth. These were of American manufacture and could operate pneumatic drills, the weight of which was 18 kilograms. [redacted] just how many of such machines there were.

25X1X

Periods of Work

10. Gold was mined during June, July, August, September, October, November, and December. That was the period when gold was actually removed from the vein of ore. During the first five months of the year, the preliminary work of digging pits, dynamiting, and clearing the earth was done. Work for the exiles went on continuously twenty-four hours a day in two twelve-hour shifts.

Ustnera Advanced Supply Base

11. Ustnera, a town on the Indigirka River (probably where the Indigirka and Nera Rivers meet), was an advance supply base for food and machinery for the Priski (sic) camps. All the food and machinery were shipped to Ustnera from Magadan. At Ustnera there were about 1,000 houses used by workers who had been released from the camps and who continued temporarily to work in that district. Some of the houses were used to store foodstuffs and other materiel intended for the camps. The administrative offices of Ustnera were subordinate to the central offices of Magadan. Foodstuffs were sent from Magadan to Ustnera by trucks, most of which were Studebakers, ZIS, and Bulmans (Pullmans?). The latter are big trucks, each of which can pull two to four trailers with a total capacity up to 60 tons.

Diligir (Delyankyr?) Intermediate Base

12. Between Magadan and Ustnera there was an intermediate base called Diligir, which [redacted] locate exactly. [redacted] Comment: Probably Delyankyr 63°50'N, 145°32'E.) It was about 130 kilometers from Ustnera. The trip from Ustnera to Diligir (Delyankyr) required eight hours by road at a speed of 20 to 25 kilometers an hour. Diligir lies on the left bank of the River Indigirka. Since there was no bridge there, materiel had to be ferried across the river. It was precisely because transportation was held up by the lack of a bridge at this point that the base at Diligir was built.

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Observations made on the Journey from Sovetskaya Gavan to the Caucasus via Moscow in late 1947.

13. a. From Ulan Ude to Irkutsk along the line south of Lake Baikal there are 37 tunnels.

b. Informant saw formations of Russian troops in Gagry in the Caucasus. He did not see as many troops on his whole journey from Sovetskaya Gavan to Moscow as he saw in Gagry. He cannot give any details as to units, etc., of the troops he saw.

c. War materiel was being transported from Tuapse in the Caucasus to Sukhumi. Tanks, cannon, etc., were being transported by rail.

d. The trains from Sovetskaya Gavan to Moscow were filled with civilians, but the trains from Moscow to the Caucasus were almost exclusively occupied by troops not under arms, non-commissioned officers, and commissioned officers. They were reportedly going to the Black Sea on leave.

Vakhanka

14. Vakhanka is about ten kilometers east of the River Dinga. There is a small camp in Vakhanka which mines aluminum, tin, and lead. A plant located in Vakhanka grinds a petrified substance called in Russian "kastirik" (sic). The ground substance is placed in sacks weighing 50 kilograms each and is sent to the Urals, where aluminum, tin, and lead

25X1X are processed. [redacted] any other details regarding production, exact destination, purpose, etc.; but he says that beginning in 1944 exiles were not employed in Vakhanka, but only free laborers.

Avtobaza (Automobile Base)

15. Avtobaza lies about 50 kms west of Vakhanka, and 25 kms west of a bridge over the River Dinga. About 1,500 (most of them free laborers) were employed there in the garage. This garage has all the equipment necessary for any repairs to automobiles. The automobiles and trucks used in all the surrounding camps are brought to this garage for maintenance and repairs. Avtobaza is in the administrative district of Ust Omchuk.

16. There is an electric power plant in Avtobaza, built in 1946. The generator is powered by an American Diesel engine. [redacted] the 25X1X capacity of this plant, but he says that it furnishes current to all the camps of the area. The greatest distance to which electric power is transmitted from this plant is 50 kilometers. It does not furnish power to Ust Omchuk, which has its own electric plant. It was rumored, however, that the power plant at Avtobaza was to be enlarged so that it could transmit power as far as 150 kilometers away.

Observations Made on Trip from Magadan to Moscow

17. From Nagayevo to Nakhodka informant travelled on the SS "Sovetskaya Latviya". The "Sovetskaya Latviya" took 3,000 released exiles and a load of "kastirik" from Nagayevo. The length of the trip was nine days and nights.

25X1X 18. [redacted] to the point where it reaches the old railroad line between Vladivostok and Khabarovsk. The trip lasted 12 to 15 hours. [redacted] the name of the 25X1X point where the new railroad line joins the old line is Tunelnaya. There is a small railroad station there. [redacted] many workmen at the 25X1X station. They were busy loading on railroad cars coal which came from the coal mines in the vicinity. [redacted] the name of the 25X1X coal mines nor how far they are from the railroad station. The new railroad line from Nakhodka to Tunelnaya is single track. All along the line there are only small railroad stations. There are no tunnels. Since

25X1X [redacted]
The personnel of the train on which he travelled was composed of civilians only. In Krasnoyarsk informant observed a train filled with organized units of the army going east. He saw other trains loaded with troops also going east. These units had full equipment, including tanks.